



feet first

promoting walkable communities

314 First Avenue S
Seattle WA 98104

p 206.652.2310
f 206.381.1631

feetfirst.org

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April 14, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Fox
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Fox:

Since 2001, Feet First has been working to ensure that all communities in Washington are walkable. We are particularly interested in promoting the development of walkable transit-oriented communities. Therefore, we strongly support the **City of Seattle's 2014 TIGER grant application for the Northgate Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge**.

The Northgate Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge will provide a direct pedestrian connection between Sound Transit's future Northgate Link Light Rail station and North Seattle College (NSC), home to 9,000 students, faculty, and staff. The station site and the college are currently divided by the I-5 freeway, creating a barrier to walking between these two important destinations. The nearest pedestrian crossings of the freeway, Northgate Way to the north and NE 92nd Street to the south, are not safe, easy, or inviting; they do not provide reasonable walking connections.

The proposed Northgate Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge will greatly increase the number of people walking in the Northgate area. People living and working west of the freeway are currently separated from the Northgate urban center. The bridge will integrate these people into the community, dramatically expanding the fifteen-minute walkshed around Northgate to include NSC, several office buildings along Meridian Avenue North, and a sizable part of the Licton Springs residential neighborhood. Sound Transit's recently-completed pedestrian access study forecasts that over 1,300 people will use the bridge to walk and bike to and from the station every day, significantly boosting transit ridership. Many more people beyond this figure will use the bridge to walk to other Northgate destinations, for example NSC students who want to grab lunch or shop between classes.

The Northgate Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge will be a win for all concerned: Sound Transit, local businesses, bicyclists, the Licton Springs community, and NSC students, staff, and faculty. Should you have any questions about our support for this project, feel free to contact me directly by calling 206.652.2310 ext. 6 or emailing lisa@feetfirst.org.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Quinn
Executive Director

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Congressman Jim McDermott
Mayor Edward B. Murray